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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,212	09/11/2003	William R. Belcourt	22873	6546
7590	03/25/2005		EXAMINER	
Vaughn W. North THORPE NORTH & WESTERN, LLP P.O. Box 1219 Sandy, UT 84091-1219			WUJCIAK, ALFRED J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/660,212	BELCOURT ET AL.
	Examiner Alfred Joseph Wujciak III	Art Unit 3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4, 7-23,25-27,30-33 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 5,6,24,28 and 29 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/24/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office Action for the serial number 10/660,212, ICE SCREW HAVING BREAKAWAY OR FLEXING CRANK HANDLE, filed on 9/11/03.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/24/03 was filed after the mailing date of the filing date on 9/11/03. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: aperture 66. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3, 10 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "said attachment means" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10, line 1, "claim 1" should be changed to ---claim 2--- because claim 1 does not have support for "crank support means".

Claim 24 recites the limitation "said attachment means" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 25 recites the limitation "said attachment means" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7-19, 21-23, 25-27 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent # 5,782,442 to Kwak et al.

Kwak et al. teaches an ice screw (figure 1) comprising a hollow shaft (20) having a plurality of screw threads (22), a hanger (40) coupled to the hollow shaft and a flexing crank handle (60) coupled to the hanger. The flexing crank handle functions as a crank arm and comprising a mechanism. The mechanism includes a crank support means (88) for attaching the flexing crank handle to the hanger, a flexing member (figure 7) operable with the crank support means, and a sleeve (64) rotatable about the flexing member. The flexing member comprises a compression spring (76) supported within the sleeve and pre-load using a plunger (78) attached to attachment means (62) that fits within the sleeve. The spring has a predetermined stiffness. The flexing member comprises a spiral spring. The flexing member comprises an internal coil spring. The crank support means is a rigid rod pivotally attached to the hanger and a flexible material. The hanger comprises a flex boundary (94) that dictates the flex path of the flexing crank handle and supports the flexing crank handle in the resting (90) and plurality of flexed positions (92 and 94). The flex boundary comprises a flat and a radius portion. The sleeve is a rotating sleeve (col. 4, line 51) that rotates about the flexing member. The flexing crank handle reduces cross-loading of an attached carabiner (col. 4, line 6) by flexing. The flexing crank handle comprises bi-directional flexing (spring). The flexing crank handle comprises vector flexing. The flex boundary is a multi-vector flex boundary defined by a knob (80) coupled to the hanger, wherein the knob has a semi-spherical surface shape allowing the flexing crank handle to flex in any direction about the surface.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwak et al. in view of US Patent Application Publication # 2002/0074443 to Murdock et al.

Kwak et al. teaches the rotating sleeve but fails to teach the rotating sleeve comprises bearing. Murdock et al. teaches the rotating sleeve comprising bearing (29). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added the bearing to Kwak et al.'s rotating sleeve to provide efficient for rotating the sleeve about the flexing member.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwak et al.

Kwak et al. teaches all elements but fails to teach the use of elements in method. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have specified steps for screwing the ice screw into an ice body and attaching the carabiner to the screw to reduce the chance of accident when the ice screw is not proper installed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-6, 28-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In regard to claims 5 and 28-29, the prior art fails to teach the flexing member comprises complimentary solid height coil springs attached opposite one another on the hanger. In regards to claim 6, the flexing member comprises a solid height coil spring attached within a recess formed in the hanger. In regards to claim 24, the prior art fails to teach the attachment means is a flexible member.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US Patent # 6,607,340 to Petzl et al.

US Patent # 5,528,803 to Frisoli.

US Patent # 5,118,061 to Byrne et al.

US Patent # 6,068,226 to Anders

Petzl et al., Byrne et al. and Anders teach ice screw/anchor with a flexible handle. Frisoli teaches the flexible handle with spring and being foldable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Joseph Wujciak III whose telephone number is (703) 306-5994. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A Braun can be reached on 703 308 2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alfred Joseph Wujciak III
Examiner
Art Unit 3632 

2/23/05